



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles Romans 5:15-19

Title: Conquered at the Cross

Theme: Grasping Kingdom Authority in the Cross of Christ

Series: Grasping Our Authority in Christ

Romans 5:15-19, "But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

Introduction: *In grasping our authority in Christ there are six key topics that must be addressed, the first being "Grasping Kingdom Authority."* Living in a sin trodden world has great dangers which are understood by those who live victoriously in Christ. These Christians understand the sin principle and how it slowly creeps in undetected until it makes its public announcement, destroys a person's effectiveness, and causes destruction to all who are associated with that person's life. Learning what happened to Ephesus (Acts 18:19-21; 19:1, 17-10; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 15:32; 16:8; 1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:18; 4:12; Revelation 1:11 and 2:1) gives us a clear picture of how sin births its destructive power.

Ephesus' Destruction - In her day she was one of the cultural and commercial centers of western Asia Minor. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia) Ephesus was a real city that represented that place where mankind could fill his flesh with Satan's lies, enjoy false worship and feed upon all that this world system has to offer. Although there was a great representation of the church of Christ working in Ephesus she eventually came to ruin. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia; The New International Dictionary of the Bible; Wikipedia Encyclopedia) Ephesus' downfall was silent and non-violent. Silt was the reason for the gradual decline of the flourishing metropolis of Ephesus. Over the years, fine sedimentary particles slowly filled up the harbor, separating the city from the economic life of the sea traders. (10,000 Sermon Illustrations) What happened to Ephesus is symbolic of what happens to the soul of mankind. Let the Holy Spirit place this truth deep within your heart. Little evil practices and small acts of disobedience may seem harmless. However, Christians who let the silt of sin gradually accumulate will find themselves far from the Lord. Spiritual life will come to ruin. This is why the Holy Spirit moved the writer of Hebrews not to be hardened by sin's deceit. (Hebrews 3:13)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that God has gloriously given us kingdom authority.* Even though the first Adam legally lost it, the second Adam, the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ righteously regained what was lost by Adam.

Interrogative Sentence: *How did Adam enable sin to come upon all of mankind?* What did the blood of Christ purchase for those who come to Christ?

Transitional Sentence: *The first step toward enjoying Kingdom Authority is to gain some understanding of what authority was lost by Adam and Eve's sin.* Genesis 1:26-28 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"

Catch the original intent, "Let us make man in our image, in our own likeness." (Genesis 1:26) Solomon makes a definite allusion to the original state of man in Ecclesiastes 7:12, "This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes." (Barnes Notes; The New Bible Commentary; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory; The Pulpit Commentary; The New American Commentary) The Hebrew word, "upright" (yasar) quite often means right in an ethical or emotional sense, as agreeable or pleasing. A Biblical example of this is found in that familiar phrase "right in God's sight." (The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament)

There was a day in the original setting when mankind knew the sound of the Lord walking through the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:8) Adam and Eve before the fall did not have to worry about the mouth of the lion or the paw of the bear as David did while shepherding sheep. They were not concerned about being bitten by snakes, killed by bulls, or otherwise injured by God's creatures. They did not have to build tornado shelters or fear earthquakes. Fires and flash flooding did not exist.

Subdue means taming and caring for the earth so it could continue to be of profitable use. (Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary) Adam's rule was to be like that of God for the Trinity's own good, not for his own pleasure. Self pleasure is what caused Eve to be misled by the devil and Adam to heed his wife's enticements.

Let the Holy Spirit of Christ place this truth deep into your spiritual heart. As originally created, man enjoyed fellowship with God and had authority to exercise God given knowledge to care for everything in this world. He literally enjoyed heaven on earth.

Transitional Sentence: *In original creation mankind walked in true fellowship with God, but mankind, Adam, broke a special covenant with the Lord.* (Genesis 2:15-17) Our key text today is a "Covenant of Works" (Easton's Bible Dictionary) of which Christ redeemed the negative consequence of Adam's willful choices. This covenant is

between two parties, God, the moral governor and Adam, a free moral agent and representative of all his natural future generations. The penalty was spiritual and physical death, the consequences we all live with today. (Easton's Bible Dictionary; The New International Dictionary of the Bible) Yet Adam and his wife just had to have the forbidden fruit, willfully breaking the covenant. (Willmington's Bible Handbook -7) The word "covenant" in the Bible is God's revelation of Himself in the way of promise or of favor to men. (Genesis 9:8-11; Jeremiah 33:20; Easton's Bible Commentary) Biblical account of God's covenant - (Genesis 17:2) (Numbers 25:12; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 20:6)

Those whom Christ lives in and through are priests unto the gospel only because of Jesus' eternal priesthood which is superior to all priesthoods. (The New International Dictionary of the Bible; Hebrews chapter 7; The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Transitional Sentence: *Christians who grasp their authority in Christ understand that God has a covenant that leads to enjoyment of the promises and favors of the Lord.* They also live in reverent fear of willfully breaking God's covenant. Romans 1 says, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts... Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts... Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. (Romans 1:18-29)

Because of the danger of being surrendered to a depraved mind, Christians who enjoy their authority in Christ are aware of the signs of living in the sinful flesh. They are:

- alienation from God, Christ and lacking Holy Spirit sensitivity (Ephesians 4:18)
- spiritual blindness (John 12:40; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 2:11)
- continual thoughts of ways to satisfy the sinful nature (Romans 6:6)
- a life that continually produces bad fruit (Matthew 7:17)
- claiming to be a Christian yet controlled by the flesh, the world, and the lies of the devil (1 John 1-6-7)
- deception by passion and pleasure causing foolish living and disobedience to Biblical authority (Titus 3:3)
- after having been set free by knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ only once more enslaved and in worse shape than before. (2 Peter 2:20)
- friendship with the world's views and questioning God's Word. (James 4:4)
- choosing to live in the world and avoid the truths of God and the fellowship of true believers. (John 3:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:4)
- resisting the Holy Spirit's urging to do what is right and to repent, turn from all that is heart-breaking to the Lord. (Acts 7:51)

Transitional Sentence: *Breaking the blood purchased covenant with God leads to a depraved mind, keeping the unrepentant from the perfect will of God.* Christians who grasp “Kingdom Authority” place themselves under the shed blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:22 says, “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” The blood of Christ is the ratification of the covenant of grace that is offered to all who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Adam legally destroyed the covenant of life spiritually and physically, however, the Lord Jesus Christ righteously regained everything Adam lost by giving His life upon the Cross of Calvary.

The first is grasping Christ as the Mediator of this new covenant. (Hebrews 9:15) A mediator (*mesites*) is one who mediates between two parties. Ascribed to Christ He is the one who actually unites repentant sinners with God thus bringing peace between God and men who come to Christ for forgiveness. (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament; Practical Word Studies of the New Testament) Jesus is the Mediator chosen by God because He is perfect and without sin. He is the one able to present the terms of the new covenant perfectly. He is infinite in wisdom and knowledge and power to direct all things. (Matthew 28:18; John 5:22, 25-27) Because God is holy, He can enable you to be holy devoted to Him. (1 Peter 1:16) When you suffer in the work of God you are enabled to keep going because of the power of God. (2 Timothy 1:8-9) When revelation of sacrificial service is given to you, Christ sends the Holy Spirit to provide the Spiritual gifts to be exercised sacrificially for the edification of the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12-14)

The Sunday School Times ran the true story of some kids who had illumination of living a life of holiness expressed through sacrificial love. “In 1945 some English children sent new toys to children in India. After receiving the gifts, a missionary challenged the children from India to bring their old toys to church so they can be taken to some children in a nearby village, who had never heard of Christ and didn’t know about Christmas.

The following Sunday the gifts were received and to the surprise of the missionary, the children gave their new toys and kept the old ones. When asked why, a little girl said, ‘When we think of what God and Christ did for us, we could not give less than our best in His name.’” (Knights Master Book of 4,000 Illustrations)

Christ is able accomplish this in His people because being human He became a faithful, merciful high priest. (Hebrews 2:17) Having suffered, He is able to help us when we suffer, (Hebrews 2:18) Being sinless when tempted He is able to help us overcome temptation and sympathize with our weaknesses. (Hebrew 4:15) Because of His temptations, sufferings and faithfulness we can approach the Throne of God with confidence expecting mercy and enjoying the Lord’s grace in our times of need. (Hebrews 4:16) Christ’s death on the Cross made Him the perfect mediator and His shed blood offers the repentant forgiveness of sin. (Hebrews 10:16-17; Hebrews 10:15)

Pastor Testimony of this Confidence: The Holy Spirit takes the written Word of God and puts it firmly on the hard drive of our minds while placing God's truths firmly in our hearts.

Christians who "Grasp Their Authority in Christ" understand "Kingdom Authority." They have an adversary who is the accuser of the brethren, (Revelation 12:10) but because of the Cross of Calvary they have a Savior who is the Mediator who makes the way for them to approach the Throne of Grace with confidence. (Hebrews 4:16) They are not shaken by accusers, but strengthened in the sure promise of forgiveness and empowerment to enjoy God's best. "Purify" (*katharizo*) in the spiritual sense from the pollution and guilt of sin. (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) The child of God who confesses or agrees with God on what sin is and desires to be set free from that sin will, in due time be delivered from the power and practice of that sin. (Matthew Henry Commentary; Commentary, Critical and Explanatory)

Let the Holy Spirit lay this truth deep within your spiritual heart, "Grasping Your Authority in Christ" begins with understanding that it was your sins that put Christ on the Cross, asking the Lord show you what He thinks of your sin, and trusting in the eternal forgiveness and purifying power of the blood of Christ.

In closing: All that Christ did on the Cross of Calvary conquered the effects of sin that Adam brought upon mankind. With eyes focused on Christ and spiritual hearts led by the Holy Spirit of Christ, Christians live a victorious life. They are empowered to do sacrificial service to the Body of Christ and unto those without Christ, walk in the peace of God and enjoy the purifying work of the Holy Spirit of Christ.